



Majority of Cleanup to be Finished This Year Fields Brook Superfund Site

Ashtabula, Ohio

March 2000

This Fact Sheet Will Tell You About

- Upcoming Cleanup Activities
- Upcoming Community Interviews
- Where You Can Get More Information

Public Meeting

The U.S. EPA will hold a public meeting to give you an update on activities at the Fields Brook Superfund site. The meeting will be held on **Wednesday, March 29, 2000**, at 7 p.m. at the

Ashtabula Area Chamber of Commerce

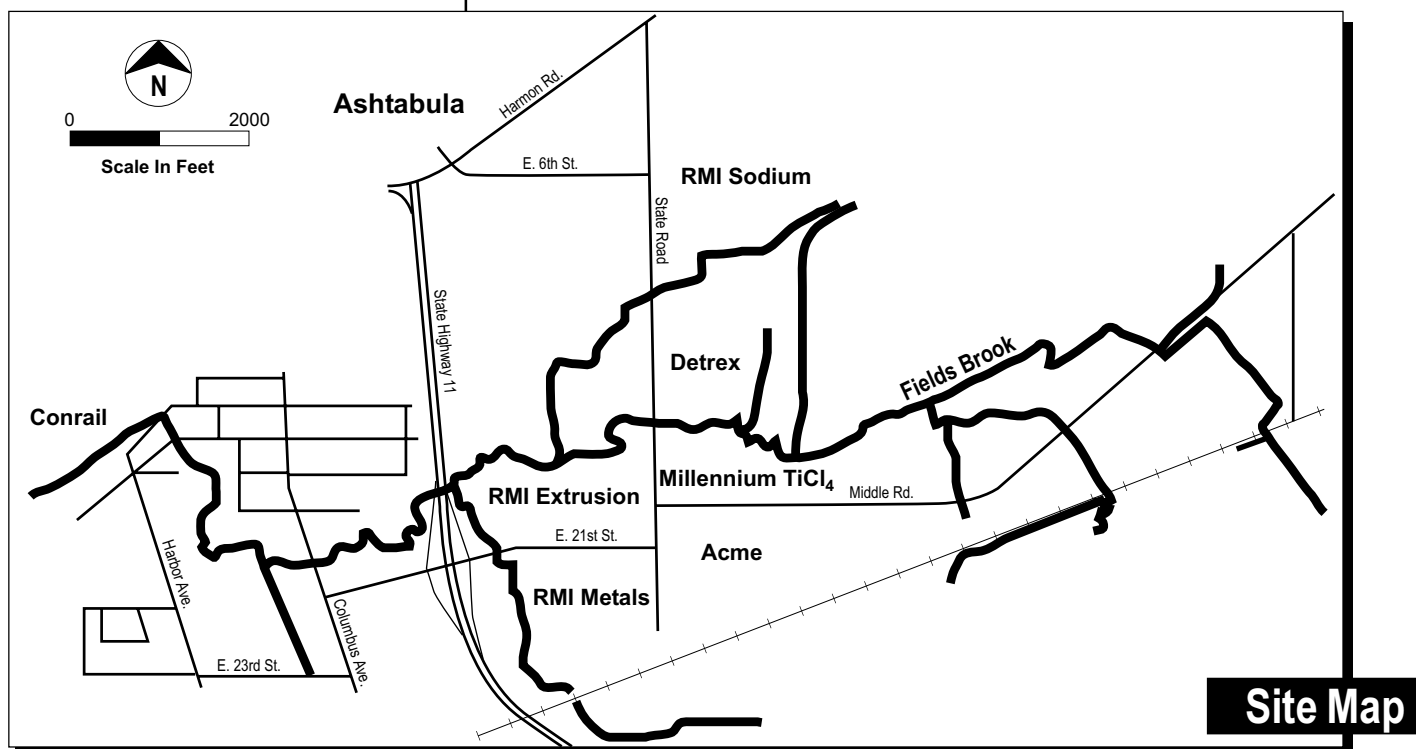
Culver Conference Center
4536 Main Ave.
Ashtabula, Ohio

Introduction

This fact sheet provides information about the Fields Brook Superfund site in Ashtabula, Ohio. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will oversee cleanup work at the site that will begin this spring and will continue through the rest of the year. The U.S. EPA has scheduled a public meeting on March 29, 2000, to inform you of the progress at the site (see details at left). If you have any questions about this update or the site in general, please contact the U.S. EPA or Ohio EPA staff listed on page 3.

Site History

The U.S. EPA placed the Fields Brook site on the National Priorities List in 1983. Due to the site's large size, the U.S. EPA divided it into separate work areas called Operable Units. These work areas include the cleanup of contaminated sediment in Fields Brook and its tribu-



taries, the cleanup of contaminated soil in floodplain and wetland areas adjacent to Fields Brook, and the cleanup of the industrial "Source Control" areas that could recontaminate Fields Brook. (See site map on page 1 for names and location of "Source Control" areas.) A Record of Decision (ROD), the document outlining the U.S. EPA's cleanup plan, was signed for the Sediment Operable Unit in 1986 and for the Floodplain/Wetland Area and the Source Control Operable Units in 1997. In 1997 and 1999, additional documents that describe changes to the RODs were approved.

What will happen this year?

This will be a very busy year in Ashtabula! The majority of the remaining cleanup work will be completed at the Fields Brook site. This spring, the companies performing the cleanup will begin construction of a landfill at what is now the RMI Sodium property. This landfill will eventually hold soil and sediment excavated from Fields Brook and soil excavated from some of the remaining industrial, or "Source Control", areas later this year.

The remaining "Source Control" cleanups should also be completed this year. Detrex Corporation will construct a slurry wall to contain heavily contaminated ground water and will address low-level soil contamination on its property. Once the Fields Brook landfill is ready for disposal, contaminated soil will be excavated from the Acme Scrap Iron and Metals facility and the RMI Metals Re-

duction property. Also, new sewers will be constructed to replace the "North Sewers", which will be grouted to immobilize contaminated sediment in the bottom of the sewer pipes. The "South Sewers" will be cleaned mechanically to remove contaminated sediment within the sewer pipes.

Once the landfill is ready, the cleanup of Fields Brook sediment and floodplain/wetland soil will begin. The U.S. EPA expects the majority of this cleanup to be completed this year. However, some downstream portions of the Brook may not be addressed until next year. Once the Fields Brook work is complete, the companies performing the cleanup will restore the area by seeding and planting native trees and shrubs. In addition, the companies have volunteered to do a general debris cleanup along the Brook to remove unsightly accumulations of trash.

In order to accommodate the community during the cleanup, trucks traveling through residential areas will operate during limited working hours, which includes no truck traffic to and from the site on weekends. Truck traffic will also not travel along school bus routes during peak hours.

What's already been done?

In November 1999, Millennium Inorganic Chemical Company (Millennium) completed the cleanup of contaminated soil and mining residuals at the Ashtabula TiCl_4 plant. Approximately 70,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and mining residuals from the Millennium TiCl_4 plant were excavated and placed in Millennium's existing landfill. A small amount of material was sent offsite for disposal. Millennium exceeded U.S. EPA requirements by excavating all soil outside of its surface water collection system that contained more than 3.1 parts per million (ppm) total PCBs, rather than just covering and containing this material onsite. This approach was more practical due to the overlap of PCB

The investigation and cleanup of the Ashtabula River is not part of the Fields Brook Superfund site cleanup. The Ashtabula River is being addressed independently by the Ashtabula Public/Private Partnership. For more information about the Ashtabula River investigation, please contact either Rick Nagle at (312) 353-8222 or Amy Mucha at (312) 886-9858.

and radionuclide contamination. Because Millennium eliminated soil and mining residuals that posed a threat of recontamination to Fields Brook, no long-term maintenance and monitoring of a soil cover is necessary at the site.

In December 1998, the Consolidated Rail Corporation (Conrail) excavated contaminated soil from the Conrail Bridge Yard, located near the confluence of Fields Brook and the Ashtabula River. Approximately 1,300 tons of low level arsenic-contaminated soil were sent offsite for disposal. Conrail exceeded U.S. EPA requirements by disposing the excavated material in an off-site permitted landfill, instead of consolidating and containing the material onsite. Conrail's action eliminated the need for long-term maintenance and monitoring at the site. The U.S. EPA has determined that the property no longer poses a threat of recontamination to Fields Brook.

Community Interviews

Later this month, the U.S. EPA will conduct community interviews with local residents and officials in the areas surrounding the Fields Brook site. The purpose of these interviews is to get feedback from the public about how the U.S. EPA disseminates information and involves the public in site cleanup activities. In addition, it is an opportunity for community members to share any concerns that they have about the site. The community interviews will take place in Ashtabula on March 28-30, 2000. For more information about the community interviews, or if you interested in speaking with U.S. EPA representatives and have not been contacted, please contact Denise Battaglia at the phone number or e-mail address listed on this page.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Anyone interested in learning more about the Fields Brook site cleanup, or the Superfund process in general, is encouraged to review documents in the information repositories located at:

Ashtabula County District Library Kent State Campus Library

335 West 44th Street
Ashtabula, Ohio

3325 West 13th Street
Ashtabula, Ohio

For additional information about the Fields Brook site, please contact:

U.S. EPA Contacts

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
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77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, Illinois 60604

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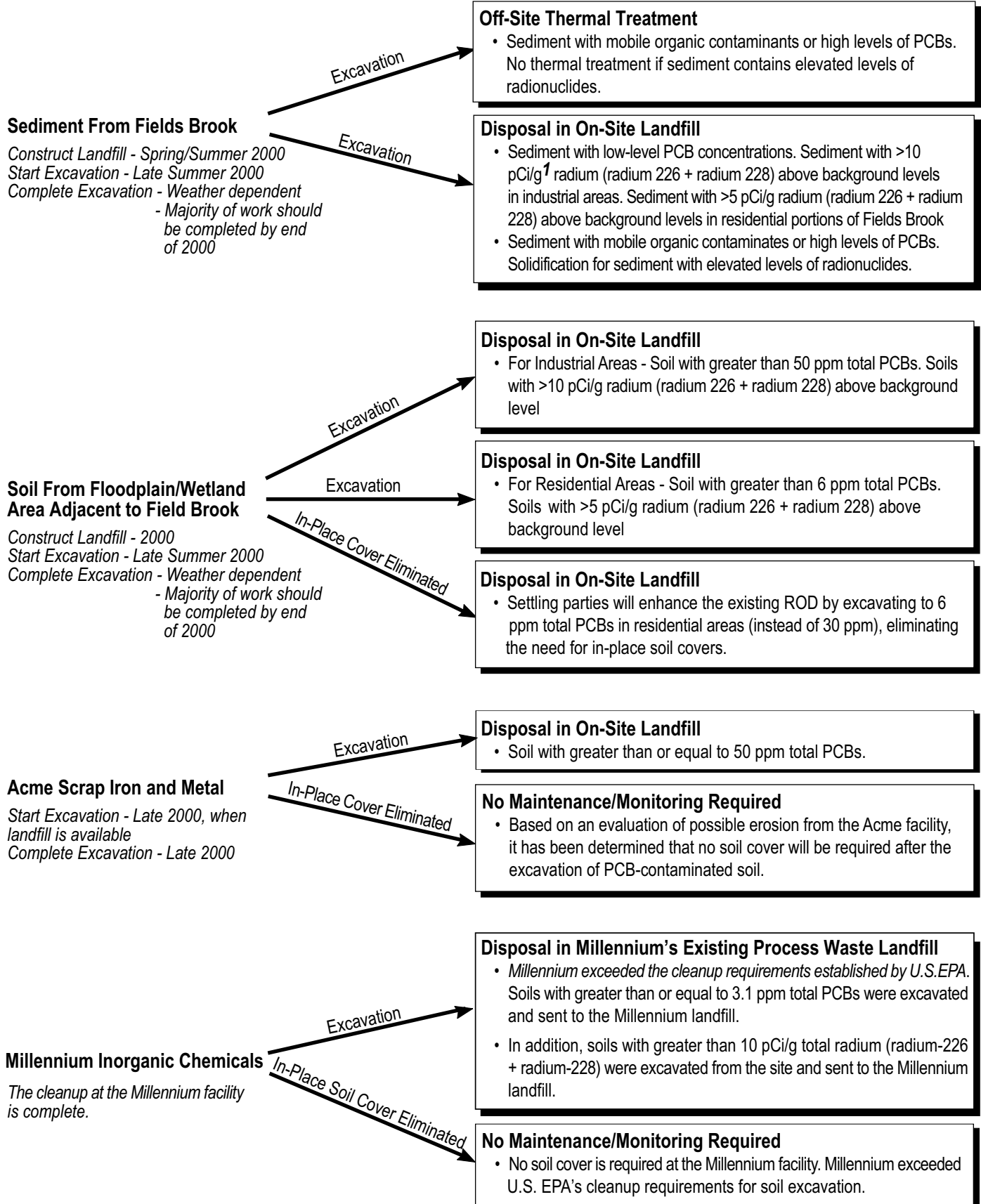
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Fields Brook Superfund Site Update

This fact sheet is printed on paper made of recycled fibers.

Fields Brook Superfund Site Cleanup Ashtabula, Ohio (Revised March 2000)

What, Where and When?



¹ pCi/g = picocuries per gram. A picocurie is a measure of radioactive concentration.

